

## **DEPARTMENT REPORT OCTOBER, 2015**

### **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

- Dr. Brandon Grimm, UNMC College of Public Health, presented the results of the Workforce Development Survey to the Department's Management Team members on October 21, 2015 and to all Department Staff at the All Staff Meeting on October 30, 2015. The Plan will be presented to the Board of Health at the November meeting. The survey was completed by staff and the results were analyzed. Areas for staff development will be prioritized over the next three years.
- The Health Director and Animal Control Division Manager attended the Capital Humane Society's Annual Dinner on October 30, 2015.
- The Employee Relations Committee hosted the Annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon for Department staff on October 26, 2015. Board of Health member and County Commissioner Roma Amundson attended the luncheon.
- The Department hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Safe Kids Coalition Luncheon on October 14, 2015.
- Health Director attended the Community Action Program's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Awards Ceremony and the Tabitha Foundation Annual Dinner.
- The Health Director continues to serve on the Community Health Endowment Board of Trustees and Funding Committee. The Committee recently completed review of grant applications for the coming year. The Health Director also assisted the Endowment with a site visit at St. Monica's.
- The Health Director and Environmental Health Division Manager and staff attended the Lancaster County Board's Public Hearing on the Wind Energy Text Amendment that is proposed for Lancaster County.
- The Department is participating in the Combined Campaign for United Way, Community Health Charities and the Community Service Fund. The Campaign runs from October 1 - November 6, 2015. The Administrative Aide serves as the City Wide Coordinator and Department Coordinator.

## ANIMAL CONTROL

### Animal Control Stats

	Sep 13- Sep 13	Sep 14- Sep 14	Sep 15- Sep 15
<b>Pet Licenses Sold</b>	4601	4848	5191
<b>Cases Dispatched</b>	2037	1731	2486
<b>Investigation</b>	2223	1910	2650
<b>Animals Impounded</b>			
<b>Dogs</b>	144	143	125
<b>Cats</b>	117	135	100
<b>Court Citations Issued</b>	35	28	35
<b>Warnings/Defects Issued</b>	1280	689	1946
<b>Bite Cases Reported</b>	34	49	33
<b>Attack Cases Reported</b>	3	8	2
<b>Dogs Declared Pot. Dangerous</b>	4	8	3
<b>Dangerous Dogs</b>	2	2	1
<b>Animal Neglect Investigations</b>	48	70	75
<b>Injured Animal Rescue</b>	84	98	93
<b>Wildlife Removal</b>	48	43	75
<b>Dead Animal Pickup</b>	188	215	175
<b>Lost and Found Reports</b>	195	215	211
<b>Phone Calls</b>	3776	4164	4660
<b>Average Response Time (in mins)</b>	23	33	16

Pet license sales are off to a good start for the first month of the fiscal year, up about 350 from the same time period last year (2014) and up almost 600 from September 2013.

Animal Control Officer Dunn is leading a review of our non-compliant dangerous dog owners and potentially dangerous dog owners. Each owner will be contacted by Animal Control and asked to complete any areas they have not followed through on since the declaration became final. The requirements for dangerous dogs are: license, rabies vaccination, registration, microchip, spay/neuter and posting Dangerous Dog (DD) signs on their property where the dog resides. The same process will be repeated for owners of Potentially Dangerous Dogs (PDD) (no signs are required for PDD owners).

Animal Control officers have been busy conducting ride alongs for the nursing students that are rotating through our Department. Any Board members interested in a ride along can contact Steve Beal at 402-441-8080 and arrange a date and time.

Animal staff will be attending the Capital Humane Society Annual dinner and fund raiser on October 30, 2015. Nearly 400 attendees are expected.

Animal Control staff attended the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Problem Resolution Team (PRT). Animal Control is involved in helping review about 3 of the many properties currently considered open cases by the PRT.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

### **Home Visitation Conference & New Benchmarks**

In mid-October, 12 home visitors and 4 supervisors from Maternal Child Health attended the Recharge for Resilience Conference in York, NE. The all-day event was targeted for those who work directly or indirectly with children and families in the home. Keynote speakers included Dr. Sam Meisels of the Buffet Early Childhood Institute discussing the achievement gap challenge & Dr. Mark Hald on the topic of infant mental health. The conference hosted 13 unique break-out sessions that staff were able to choose from at different points throughout the day including topics such as domestic violence, circle of security, breastfeeding, safe sleep and substance abuse. Two of our very own public health nurses, Corrine Jarecke and Jane Bitney, both International Board Certified Lactation Consultants, presented a breakout session on breastfeeding! Staff also enjoyed listening to a panel of families and home visitors from Early Head Start, N-MIECHV, and Sixpence about their participation in home visiting, the benefits for their own families, and their personal experiences.

As part of the pre-conference, supervisors in the Nebraska Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting programs (N-MIECHV) from across the state gathered to discuss year 5 Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) efforts. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has selected Benchmark 1: Improved Maternal and Newborn Health as the focus area. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will be implementing a revised benchmark plan for all MIECH programs in Fiscal Year 17 which begins October 1, 2016. The year 5 CQI plan, which will begin this month, will focus on the constructs that remain under the revised benchmark plan so that the state can evaluate those over FY 16 and FY 17. The revised benchmark plan has not been finalized by HRSA, but includes proposed changes such as tracking preterm births, exclusive breastfeeding, and smoking cessation in primary caregivers of children.

### **Homeless Outreach Vaccination Efforts**

Each year, Community Health Services staff offer flu vaccine to homeless and near homeless individuals who seek services at Project Homeless Connect-Lincoln, Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach, the Gathering Place, Clinic With A Heart, and at the Center for People in Need. Eleven clinics have been planned thus far this flu season. Marj Determan, Public Health Nurse, works closely with the schools of nursing to offer vaccine services at other sites as appropriate. These student projects fulfill two goals; protection for vulnerable populations and a valuable learning experience for students.

Community Health Services is a provider of the Adult Immunization Program, part of the federal program; Vaccines for Children. This year, seasonal flu vaccine was included in the panel of immunizations available to uninsured and underinsured adults. Tdap, Pneumonia, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Human Papilloma Virus, Measles, Mumps and Rubella, Varicella and Meningococcal vaccines are available. These vaccines are offered in our outreach clinics to the homeless/near homeless along with seasonal flu protection.

Project Homeless Connect-Lincoln was the first homeless outreach vaccine clinic held this year. One hundred and fifty seven vaccines were given at this event held at the Pinnacle Bank Arena on September 29<sup>th</sup>. A huge thanks to Marj Determan, Ruth Shubert, Kim Rettig, Barb Martinez, Karla Gregory, Jeff Krotz, and Brenda Monroe who worked very hard to provide these services!

### **Refugee Health Assessments**

Community Health Services provides health assessments, infectious disease screening, other lab work (up to 12 tests per refugee), and vaccinations to refugees and asylees within the first 90 days of their U.S. arrival. We receive federal funds from the Office of Refugee Resettlement for our efforts. From October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015, 400 refugees completed the health examination. The need was fairly stable from the previous year at 440 refugees served. Additionally this year, 44 refugees accessed vaccination services only. They were refugees who began services in another state or did not seek services until more than 90 days after their U.S. arrival.

### **CHS Quality Improvement Guidance Team**

Since August, the Community Health Services' Quality Improvement Guidance Team (QI Guidance Team) has been working to develop an addendum to the department-wide Quality Plan. Since 2010, our division has had a formalized quality initiative. Procedures, processes, teaching and philosophy related to our quality effort have been contained in our Quality Guidebook. In order to be aligned with department-wide efforts, including promoting the use of the same terminology, the QI Guidance Team voted to adopt this addendum. On an annual basis, starting in January 2016, the QI Guidance Team will identify 2 to 3 priority program indicators for the division to focus upon, with quality initiatives following as needed. This effort is not intended to replace improvements initiated from front line staff, rather, it is intended to focus all CHS staff on our goals related to excellent customer service and improved patient outcomes.

### **Chlamydia Awareness**

Channel 10/11's Bridget Fargen produced a story working with CHS and UNL's Student Health Center about the continued high incidence of Chlamydia infections in our county, in our state, and across the U.S. You can view the story at: <http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/Special-Report-Conversation-About-Chlamydia-338172342.html>. While the age group with the highest number of Chlamydia infections remains 15 to 24, the average age of patients visiting LLCHD's STI Clinic last year was 30. Regular testing, a newer, non-invasive test for Chlamydia, a one dose treatment and talking to sexual partners were also features of the story. STI services at LLCHD and UNL's Student Health

Center were promoted for people who need more information or who are seeking services including links to our website from the 10/11 News webpage.

Another feature highlighted in this report was the success of a new service at UNL's Student Health Center, called "Protection Connection". This service was developed by Nicole Greenwalt, a 23 year-old peer counselor and recent graduate of UNL. The service was modeled after a program at Rutgers University and Boston College's "Condom Fairy" program. Students can order condoms (male and female), dental dams, and lubricant free of charge and discretely via the web. Instructions on the proper use of protection devises are included in each kit. Walking into the Student Health Center to obtain protection may be a barrier for some students. The goal is to make access to protection as easy and "anonymous" as possible.

## DENTAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

### WIC

#### Caseload (Participation):

<b>Total</b>	3653
<b>Main</b>	2799
<b>Cornhusker Clinic</b>	854

#### Food: For May 2015 (Journey Rollout)

<b>Food Monthly Obligations</b>	\$109,534.19
<b>Food Pkg Avg.</b>	\$ 70.76
<b>Women</b>	\$ 37.69
<b>Infants</b>	\$142.88
<b>Children</b>	\$ 45.77

#### Mentoring:

	(Number and school)
<b>Students</b>	1- Nursing Nebraska Wesleyan
<b>Interns</b>	1 UNL- RD
<b>Volunteers</b>	1 UNL- RD
<b>LMEP Residents</b>	

Our renovation is complete at our Cornhusker Clinic location. We are excited to offer more privacy for both our clients and our breastfeeding mothers with a separate breastfeeding area. Our average caseload for FFY 2015= 3547 versus FFY 2014= 3527.

### Dental Health

- Total number of clients served during all clinic hours (unduplicated count): 511
- Total number of patient encounters (duplicated client count): 626
- Total number of patient visits (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 909
- Total number of Racial/Ethnic and White Non-English speaking patients: 368 (72%)
- Total number of children served: 344 (67%)
- Total number of clients enrolled in Medicaid: 344 (67%)
- Total number of clients that identified another language as their primary language: 228 (45%)  
Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Farsi, French, Karen, Kurdish, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Other).

- Clients served during **Thursday evening hours** (unduplicated count): 60
- Client encounters during Thursday evening hours (duplicated client count): 64
- Patient visits during Thursday evening hours (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 101
- Racial/Ethnic and White Non-English speaking patients during Thursday evening hours: 38 (68%)
- Children served during Thursday evening hours: 58 (97%)
- Patients enrolled in Medicaid during Thursday evening hours: 40 (67%)
- Total number of clients that identified another language as their primary language: 28 (47%)

### **Student Rotations:**

Two dental assisting students from Southeast Community College

### **Outreach Activities:**

Fluoride Varnish Program  
Educare of Lincoln: 92q2  
LPS Nurses Orientation:26

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **Environmental Public Health Division**

#### **Hazardous Materials Emergency Response**

##### **Goals**

Protect human health and the environment by: reducing exposures to hazardous materials; assuring proper management and disposal of special wastes; preventing hazardous waste from being illegally disposed of in the Bluff Road Landfill; preventing illness and disease caused by improper waste management; and preventing damage to the environment.

##### **Indicator**

Respond to all Fire (LFR and Rural FD), Emergency Management and Law Enforcement (LPD, Sheriff, and State Patrol) requests for assistance with hazardous materials spills and releases within 30 minutes.

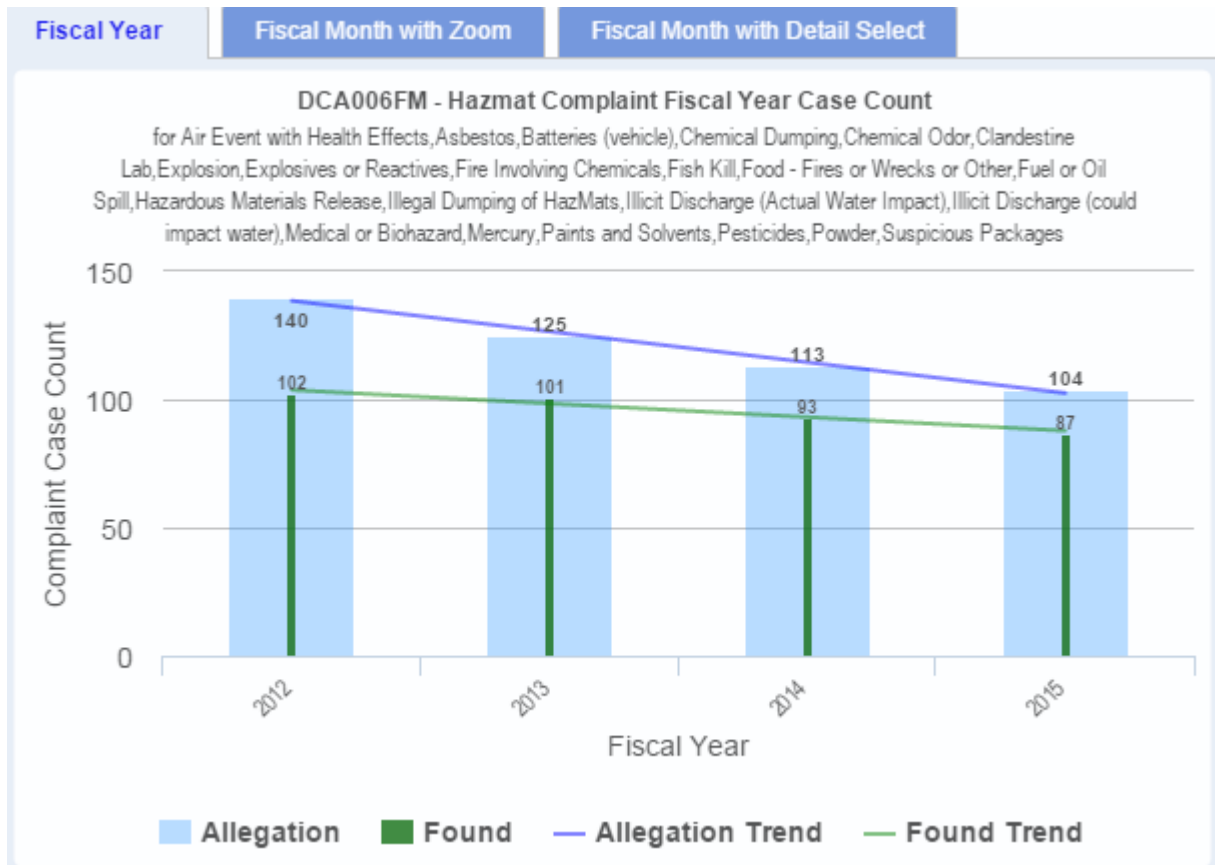
**FY15** staff estimated at 100%

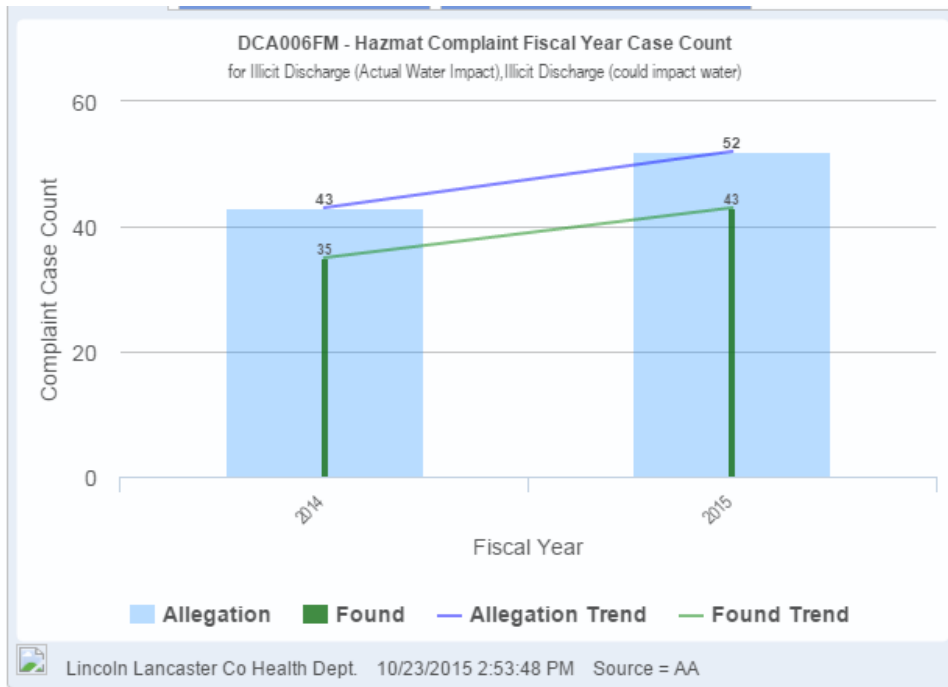
**Funding/Source:** Grants in Aid, Waste Hauler Occupation Tax

**Comparison**

**Hazardous Materials Responses**

Fiscal Year	FY 08	FY 09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
HazMat Responses	157	130	128	133	140	125	113	104





There has been a trend of decreasing number of hazardous materials releases in the past four years. However, illicit discharges to water increased from 43 in FY14 to 52 in FY15.

### **Description**

Environmental Public Health Division staff are on call 24/7 and respond immediately to all requests from 911, Lincoln Fire and Rescue, rural fire departments, and law enforcement agencies for assistance with hazardous materials spills and releases. These staff are highly trained (HazMat Tech Level and beyond) in responding to chemical, biological, and radiological hazards. Health's HazMat Team:

- assesses public health and environmental risk from chemical releases,
- prevents further human exposures and environmental contamination,
- takes samples of air, water, soil, or suspect chemicals and
- ensures that environmental cleanup is completed safely and the environment is returned to a safe condition.

In a typical year, about 75% of emergency responses are for hazardous materials spills or releases, such as illegal dumping, intentional or unintentional illicit discharge that could impact water, airborne releases, pesticide spills, medical/biohazard waste. About 20% of responses are for gasoline, diesel fuel or oil spills, mostly from vehicle/truck accidents. Recent responses of note include:

- Anhydrous ammonia releases from Farmland/Smithfield Foods (formerly Cooks Hams) and Universal Cold Storage. These were long, significant responses. LFR was Incident Commander and their HazMat staff were extensively involved. Multiple LLCHD staff worked with LFR Command, HazMat, and business environmental and safety staff. The Health Director was an active participant as well. Both anhydrous releases resulted in business employees needing medical assistance. Fortunately there were no off-site health impacts.
- Illegal dumping of about 40 pounds of a highly toxic granular carbamate pesticide (Furadan) in a rural area which required contractor and rural fire department assistance.



- A significant spill of a liquid pesticide on South 9<sup>th</sup> Street that required contractor assistance and lane closure for over three hours to accomplish acceptable clean up.

Clean-up costs are almost always recovered from responsible parties, but in specific situations financial assistance can be requested from EPA.

Of the 104 responses in FY15, 52 were illicit discharges that had the potential to impact water and 43 had actual water impact. Health maintains contracts with private entities for the City and County for both hazardous materials clean up and disposal. In FY15, this level of effort involved 1.82 full time equivalent of staff time.



### **Partnerships & Efficiencies**

The Health Department HazMat Emergency Response Team works in partnership with Lincoln Fire and Rescue, rural fire departments, law enforcement agencies and other first responders to prepare for, train for, and respond to both unintentional and intentional HazMat incidents. LLCHD is a member of Lancaster County Mutual Aid. Staff is on call 24/7 to provide immediate response to protect the public's health. Coordinating hazardous materials emergency responses with fire and law enforcement agencies allows each agency to fulfill specific roles within the Incident Command System, reduces risks to responders, public health and the environment, and allows first responders to return to service as quickly as possible. Health's role in environmental cleanup and follow through increases the capacity for fire and law enforcement to fulfill their primary roles in safety and security and assure that costs for environmental clean-up are kept to a minimum.

## **HEALTH DATA & EVALUATION**

The October 15<sup>th</sup> MAPP meeting was the last meeting before finalizing the community health assessment process. We had great participation from members and a great mix of persons from our partner agencies as well as interested citizens. The focus now is on updating the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and a Community Health Profile for dissemination to the members. Once the documents are posted we will solicit feedback on the documents from both those who have attended the meetings as well as the general public. The Information on the MAPP process, meeting PowerPoints and findings can be found on the Health Department's website at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/data/MAPP.htm>.

Due to an uptick in the number of reported pertussis (whooping cough) cases in the past couple of months, the Department issued a physician advisory to inform providers to be alert for patients with a persistent cough lasting more than two weeks. While the recent number of pertussis cases is not close to those experienced last fall and winter, there are probably other persons with pertussis in the community who have not yet been diagnosed with the disease. So far there is no apparent clustering of cases; however, individuals who have been in close contact with the cases

are at risk and have been given drugs to prevent them from contracting the disease. The number of cases are likely to rise so the current number is of little import except for illustration. However, for the 13 cases, with the exception of two individuals over 60, most of the cases (11) are adolescents or younger children. As was the case last year, we are finding that the majority (8) of the adolescents and children diagnosed with pertussis are up-to-date with the recommended pertussis vaccinations appropriate for their age group, which means that the vaccine did not provide complete immunity or the immunity has waned. Therefore individuals who develop a persistent cough lasting more than two weeks should not assume that they can't have pertussis. Also, It is highly recommended that teens aged 11 to 18, adults 18 and older; and especially parents and grandparents who are caring for infants, should seek a booster pertussis vaccination (Tdap) as their immunity has probably waned. The booster should lessen the chance that they will contract pertussis and also prevent them from infecting others are causing a larger outbreak.

So far there is very little flu activity in the country except for some isolated cases in institutions housing elderly residents. The few confirmed flu cases are mostly of a type (H3N2) that is matched to this year's flu vaccine so there's no excuse for waiting—everyone six months or older should seek a flu vaccination to prevent getting the flu. Our Communicable Disease staff is monitoring flu activity both locally, in the state and in the nation; and Tim Timmons, R.N., will be sending out his weekly activity reports each Friday. This year, however, we will supply a link to the graphs that will be posted on the Department's web page instead of being attached to the e-mail. That should both save space on your computer and make the charts readily available to anyone interested in the weekly graphs.

## **HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH**

### **Chronic Disease Prevention**

As part of the annual Streets Alive event, staff, with assistance from Public Works, staff created a two-block long simulated protected bike lane replicating the soon-to-be-completed N Street Protected Bike Lane. Staff provided education on the bike lane and encouraged riders to experience the lane. Participants expressed appreciation of having an example of how the lane will look and operate. Attendance at Streets Alive was estimated at 3,000 children and adults.

Staff provided information on bicycle and pedestrian safety to more than 100 children and adults at the annual Waverly Fire and Rescue Safety event. Staff reported much enthusiasm among the participants at this family event for learning more about the specifics of safe biking within the Waverly community.

The Near South Neighborhood Association held its first annual bike safety night. Staff provided information on bike education and safety to a dozen participants. LPD and the Great Plains Bicycle Club were also there to lend support to the importance of bicycling as a means of commuting as well as recreation and to do so while complying with all traffic laws. While the number of participants in this first bike safety night was not large, the Neighborhood Association is to be commended for recognizing the importance of safe biking and for promoting it to its residents. Opportunities like this allow staff to interact with citizens to teach safe biking and to

inform them of the many bike safety education pieces available to them and to others they may influence in the community.

The 4<sup>th</sup> National Bike Challenge ended on September 30<sup>th</sup> with more than 1,200 Lincoln riders accumulating over 680,000 miles between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> to finish 2nd (again) to Madison, Wisconsin. Nebraska was 2nd to WI in the state competition (again), and Lincoln cyclists accounted for almost 60% of the state's bicyclists and mileage during the Challenge.

International Walk Your Child to School Day was observed on October 7<sup>th</sup> at Beattie Elementary School where staff and Safe Kids Bike/Pedestrian Task Force volunteers provided education and hands-on opportunities for students to learn more about safe pedestrian and bicycle behaviors including safely crossing streets, safety around large profile vehicles, a computer 'game' that helps children determine safe routes and safe pedestrian/bicycling behaviors to school and in the community, and the importance of walking and biking for physical activity. Fed Ex is a national sponsor of this event and provided a large truck and three drivers to educate students on the difficulty drivers have in seeing children that are near their trucks and the actions that the children should take to be safe.

Staff helped coordinate the Nebraska Safe Kids Technician Training car seat check event on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at CHI Health Saint Elizabeth. 23 volunteers, some from Lincoln, others from communities across the state, spent three and a half days learning the specifics of car seat installation to become certified car seat technicians. The car seat check event was the final phase of the training. The new techs with the help of eight instructors checked 53 seats and provided families referred by the Asian Community and Cultural Center with 22 of the seats. This is an event sponsored by Safe Kids Lincoln Lancaster County and Safe Kids Nebraska.

SKLLC sponsored a celebration on October 14<sup>th</sup> with 65 coalition and community members attending. Dr. Jason Kruger, emergency department physician from CHI Health Saint Elizabeth, provided the keynote presentation on the impact of unintentional childhood injury on children, parents, staff, and the community as a whole. Testimonials were provided by Jamie Marciano, a mom involved in a back-over incident injuring her one year old daughter, and Captain Guy Pinkman, LFR, first responder in a near drowning incident. Every Day Hero Awards were presented to Captain Jeff Hatcher, LFR, for his efforts in coordinating SKLLC Fire/Burn Task Force Smoke Alarm rallies and Fire Safe Landlord Trainings; Herb Angell, a Boating Law Administrator with Nebraska Game and Parks, for his efforts in promoting life jackets and safe boating; and Marilyn Muir, from AAA NE, received an award for the company on behalf of Rose White for AAA's long-term financial support of SKLLC child passenger safety efforts.

## **INFORMATION & FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

The Division Manager is working with Information Management staff and support staff from HPO to implement use of an on-line service to manage all policies and procedures. This software as a service is the one already in use by Lincoln Fire and Rescue and Lincoln Police Department. The Department's Quality Team is helping through a QI study to make sure that once set up, policies and procedures are accessible and usable by staff. By the end of October, the first pilot of Community Health Services policies will be deployed.

The Fiscal Office Supervisor is beginning to prepare spreadsheets needed for the next budget cycle.